

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M121-119

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Robertson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 115 Meem Avenue

☐ not for publication

city, town Gaithersburg

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 8th

state Maryland

county Montgomery

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Kathleen Sentkowski

street & number 115 Meem Avenue

telephone no.:

city, town Gaithersburg, Md.

state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

liber 7498

street & number

folio 871

city, town Rockville,

state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

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| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This house is typical of the American Foursquare vernacular style. It is three bays wide, 2½ stories under a wide eaved hipped roof of patterned tin. Originally of frame sheathing, it has now been covered with composition shingling. The foundation is cement block.

The facade faces north and presents a symmetrical placement of centered door under a centered hipped roof dormer. A full width porch with slender doric columns and plain balustrade is slightly raised. The windows of the house are one-over-one with the exception of the dormer window, composed of three narrow casements.

An exterior chimney is located on the west side. The east side is decorated with a shallow semi-octagonal bay window on the first floor. A rear service porch opens off the kitchen in the rear/

There are many mature trees on the lot. A deteriorated vertical framed outbuilding and a garage occupy the rear of the lot.

8. Significance

Survey No. M-21-119

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | local history (specify) |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Specific dates | 1911 | Builder/Architect |
| check: Applicable Criteria: | <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | |
| and/or | | |
| Applicable Exception: | <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | |
| Level of Significance: | <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The family of Gaithersburg's first Mayor sub divided part of their farm in 1896 for this residential neighborhood. Robertson house was built in 1911 on one of these lots, and is a near original example of the popular "American Foursquare" architectural style. It was owned by the Robertsons for over 60 years.

History and Support

"Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg" was platted in 1896 on part of the 18th century Rawling's family farm. Martha Meem purchased 200 acres of "Rawling's Rest" and "Zoar" in 1862, and her family built the large Victorian home on Chestnut Street. When the land was subdivided in 1896, this lot was one of the 8 owned by George Meem.1 Mr. Meem was a driving force in the development of Gaithersburg as a mercantile and trade center. He was the first Mayor of Gaithersburg, after that system was adopted in 1898. 2

The 30 lots of "Meem's Addition" occupied a triangular area between Diamond Avenue and the B&O Railroad tracks. The lots were large, nearly 1/2 acre and heavily treed, but Meem's Addition was not a residential success, and few lots were sold, in the first decade.

In 1911 William and Lillian Robertson purchased lots 26 and 27 for \$200. A mortgage for \$1,425 paid for the construction of this house in the same year. The Robertson House is an example of a variant of the colonial revival architecture, commonly called American Foursquare. This house is typical of that style with its box shape, symmetrical arrangement and full width porch with classical columns. The house is in near original condition except for the composition shingling applied over the original frame siding.

With the death of Lillian Robertson in 1973, the 60 year occupancy by that family ended.3 During those years many of the vacant lots in Meem's Addition had been developed, and a wide variety of architectural styles are evident, with this home one of the earliest.

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records, JGH9/228 (1862) and JA 55/105 (1896)
2. Mr. Meem was President of the Board of Commissioners for 13 years, before Mayor and Council system adopted.Two of his brothers were also active in town commercial and political affairs
3. Montgomery County Estate Records, Administration #008-09133 and Inventory

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M-21-119

Montgomery County Land, Plat, Equity and Tax Records. Gaithersburg; The Heart of Montgomery County pp.377-378

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .54 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 26 and part of Lot 27 of "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg"
Per Montgomery County Plat 2-133

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel (For the City of Gaithersburg)organization Historic Research Associatesdate August, 1987street & number 7526 Weatherby Drivetelephone (301) 330-3005city or town Rockville, Maryland 20855

state _____

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

GAITHERSBURG HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET

ADDRESS 115 MEEM AVENUE
County: Montgomery
Gaithersburg

MHT # M-21-119
LIBER 4610, FOLIO 414

SURVEY # 046
LOT L26, BLOCK -

OWNER: -
ADDRESS: -
CITY: -

PRESENT USE: residence
ORIGINAL USE: residence
BUILDER: unknown

STYLE: Colonial revival

DATE BUILT: c.1900

PHYS. COND: fair

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

FOUNDATION: concrete covered
WALL STRUCTURE: Balloon
WALL COVERING: novelty siding

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood Truss
ROOF COVERING: pressed tin
ROOF STYLE: hip
EAVES: boxed cornice, plain frieze
CHIMNEYS: two

APPENDAGES:

ADDITIONS: rear
ELLS: -
PORCHES: front
SUPPORTS: Doric columns
OUTBUILDINGS: two sheds

STORIES: 2 1/2

BAYS: 2

APPROX DIMENSION: 26 x 29

WINDOWS:

TYPE: d.h.s.
LIGHTS: 1/1
BAY WINDOWS: -
SIDE BY SIDES: -
GABLE TYPES: 3 stationary horizontal

ENTRANCES:

LOCATION: center
DESCRIPTION: decorative

THREAT: none

SURROUNDINGS: residential

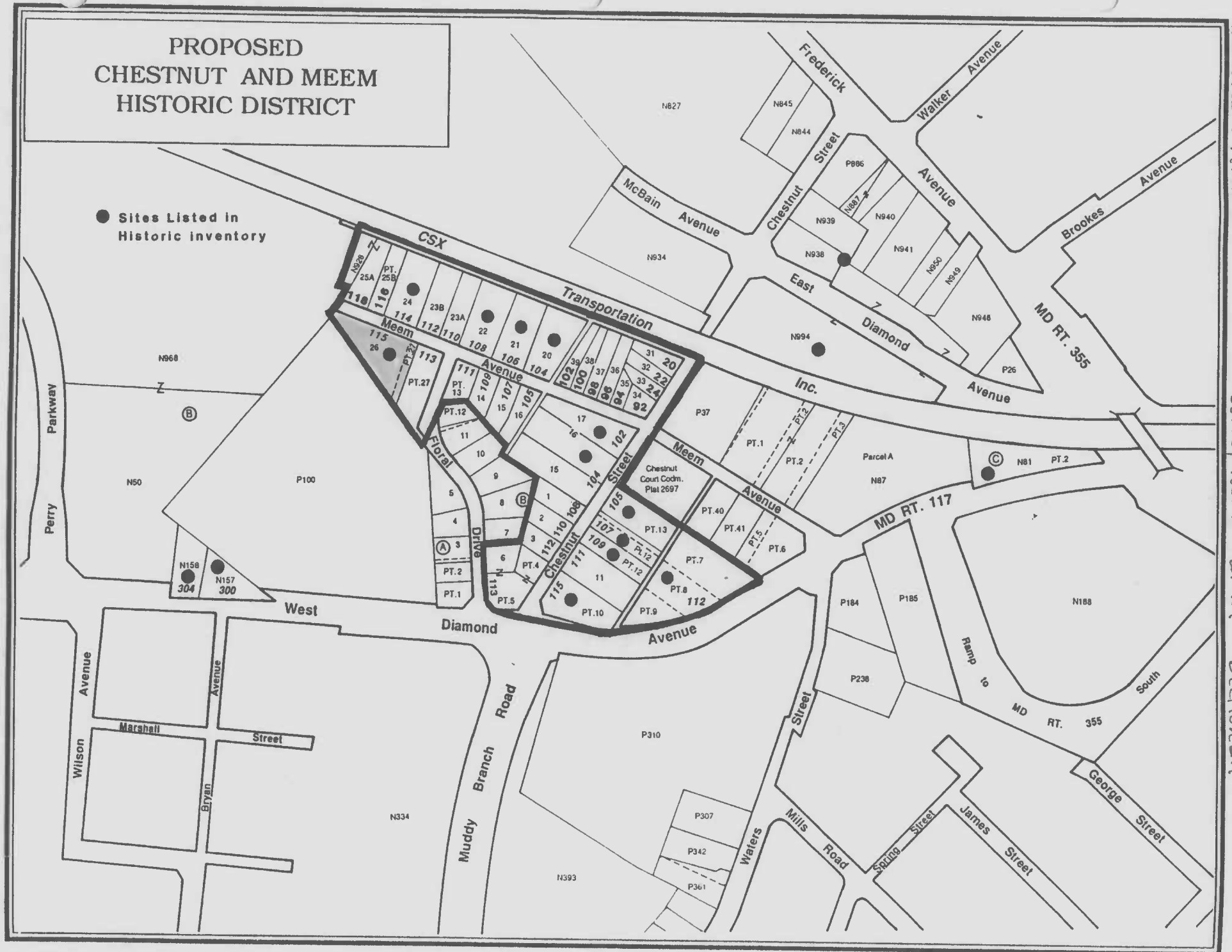
046
M:21-119

DESCRIPTION: Porch extends full width and is supported by four Roman-Doric columns (one missing). Porch has raised seam tin roof. Door has raised carved design, very ornate at top above half-door window. Under window is left and decorative carved design underneath. There are a series of small square raised panels, two rows of three, underneath. Front-symmetrically placed windows on second storey; 1/2 storey has dormer with three horizontal windows capped with cornice. Right elevation-symmetrically placed windows. Left elevation-rear bay has three-bay window. Rear elevation, right bays of both floors have 1/1 window, upper porch now enclosed. Shed roof extension, rafter ends curved.

Recorded by:
P. Patula/C. MacFarland
September 18, 1982
Historic Inventory Task Force

PROPOSED CHESTNUT AND MEEM HISTORIC DISTRICT

● Sites Listed in
Historic Inventory



115 Meem Avenue

Survey No. M-21-119

Section 2.1



105 Meem

M-21-119

Carthage, MD

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Front (north) facade



M-21-119

115 Meem

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1996

Front (north) & side (east) facades



M-21-119

115 Heen Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Rear (south) & side (west) facade



M-21-119

115 Meem Avenue

Caithersburg, MO 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Rear (south) facade